

12 June, 1946.

E. #172

OFFICIAL ANNOUNCEMENT NO. 4-----MAY 18, 1928-----FOREIGN MINISTRY.

The Japanese Government have instructed Mr. K. Yoshizawa, our Minister in China, and Mr. S. Yada, our Consul-General in Shanghai, to hand, on May 18th, the following memorandum to Marshal Chang Tso-lin and Mr. Huang Fu, Minister for Foreign Affairs of the Nationalist Government at Nanking, respectively, and circumstantially explain to them our attitude:

Memorandum.

The life of the population in China is characterized by extreme unrest and distress owing to the constant disturbances there, which have now extended over many years; and foreign residents enjoy there no assurance of safety in the pursuit of their occupations. It is, accordingly, the earnest desire of Chinese and foreigners alike that the disturbances should terminate, as soon as possible, in such a manner as may lead to the emergence of a united and peaceful China. Especially is this keenly hoped for by Japan, whose interests are specially and deeply involved, on account of her being China's nearest neighbour.

The disturbances, however, now threaten to spread to the Peking and Tientsin districts, and it is feared that Manchuria may also be affected.

The Japanese Government attach the utmost importance to the maintenance of peace and order in Manchuria, and are prepared to do all they can in order to prevent the occurrence of any such state of affairs as may disturb that peace and order, or constitute a probable cause of such disturbance.

In these circumstances, should the disturbances develop further in the direction of Peking and Tientsin and the situation become so menacing as to threaten the peace and order of Manchuria, the Japanese Government, on their part, may possibly be constrained to take appropriate and effective steps for the maintenance of peace and order in Manchuria. It must be noted, however, that the policy of the Japanese Government, which consists in maintaining an attitude of strict neutrality towards the contending forces, remains unchanged in every respect, and that, should the course of events be such as to render the above-mentioned measure imperative, the Japanese Government will, in respect of the time and method of its adoption, exercise due care to provide against any unfair consequences arising to either of the two opposed parties.
